

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 01711 051851Z

62

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 OES-03 FEA-01 AEC-05

CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01

PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 BIB-01 DODE-00 /098 W

----- 040518

R 051700Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9380

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1711

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, IT

SUBJECT: ITALY AND NPT

REF: A. STATE 23371; B. ROME 0696; C. STATE 14577

SUMMARY: RESPONSIBLE GOI FONMIN OFFICIAL CONFIRMS TIMING,
CONTENT AND MODLITIES OF DELIVERY OF JANUARY 28, 1969, NOTE
VERBALE AS CITED REF A; REITERATES THAT WORKING-LEVEL DRAFT
OF NPT PACKAGE FOR PARLIAMENTARY PRESENTATION CONTAINS NO
LANGUAGE GOING BEYOND "OBSERVATIONS" CONVEYED BY THAT NOTE
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PAGE 02 ROME 01711 051851Z

VERBALE; SAYS GOI STILL MUCH INTERESTED IN SECTION 25(B)

OPTION; AND IS GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC THAT GOI WILL BE AT MAY 5 REVIEW CONFERENCE, EITHER AS FULL PARTICIPANT OR AS OBSERVER. END SUMMARY.

1. WORKING -LEVEL FONMIN OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR NPT (NITTI, OFFICE DIRECTOR, DISARMAMENT) REVIEWED GOI PLANS REGARDING NPT WITH EMBOFF FEBRUARY 4. ESSENTIAL POINTS FOLLOW.

2. NITTI CONFIRMED INFORMATION CITED REFTTEL REGARDING TIMING, CONTENTS AND MANNER IN WHICH GOI NOTE VERBALE OF JANUARY 28, 1969 WAS CONVEYED TO DEPOSITARY POWERS AND, SUBSEQUENTLY IN ROME TO OTHER NPT SIGNATORIES. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE GOI DOES NOT CONSIDER THE CONTENT OF THE NOTE VERBALE TO COMPRISE A RESERVATION CONDITIONING ITALIAN SIGNATURE OF THE NPT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT ATTACHED TO THAT NOTE WERE THE TEXTS OF TWO RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE ITALIAN SENATE (19 JULY, 1968) AND THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES (26 JULY 1968) IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPROVAL OF NPT SIGNATURE. BOTH REFER IN PART TO PEACEFUL USES BUT NEITHER, PER NITTI, COMPRISES ANY MORE OF A RESERVATION OR QUALIFICATION OF SIGNATURE THAN DOES THE NOTE VERBALE ITSELF.

NITTI REAFFIRMED THAT AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED HIS WORKING-LEVEL TEXT (NOW IN ITS SIXTH DRAFT) FOR TRANSMISSION OF NPT TO PARLIAMENT CONTAINS NO LANGUAGE GOING BEYOND THAT CONTAINED IN THE 1969 NOTE VERBALE (REF B). HE AGAIN CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PACKAGE MUST GO THROUGH HIS "POLITICAL SUPERIORS" AND THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS, AND THAT IN EITHER PHASE IT IS SUBJECT TO SUBSTANTIVE AMENDMENT. COMMENT: EMBOFF INFERRED THAT NITTI PERSONALLY DOUBTS THERE WILL BE SUCH AN AMENDMENT.

3. NITTI HAS A VERY CLEAR PERCEPTION OF US CONCERNS RE TIMELY ITALIAN RATIFICATION AND POSSIBLE RESERVATIONS (REF C) AND UNDERTOOK TO ASSURE, IN HIS FUTURE GOI MEETINGS ON NPT, THAT HIS COLLEAGUES AND SUPERIORS HAVE AN EQUALLY CLEAR VIEW.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, NITTI SAID THAT ITALY STILL HAS AN "ACTIVE INTEREST" IN A 25(B) WAIVER SINCE THE VAGARIES OF THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM KEPT THE TIMING OF THE NPT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 01711 051851Z

RATIFICATION IN DOUBT. HE FELT THE WAIVER WOULD BE WORTH-WHILE INSURANCE "EVEN IF IT WERE NECESSARY FOR ONLY A VERY FEW MONTH." HE NOTED THAT GOI IS WELL AWARE THAT NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS SUCH AS THE US "AND OTHERS" COULD, IN ABSENCE OF WAIVER OR RPT OR RATIFICATION, CUT OFF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AT ANY TIME. HE SAID WAIVER QUESTION IS STILL BEING DISCUSSED IN VIENNA AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE, WITH AT LEAST SOME OF THE OTHER (UNNAMED) PARTIES RESPONDING THAT IF ITALY WOULD ONLY

RATIFY THE NPT "THE WHOLE PROBLEM WOULD GO AWAY."

5. THE KEY TO WHETHER SIGNATORY NON-PARTIES WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE AT REVIEW CONFERENCE AS NON-VOTING OBSERVERS IS, IN FONMIN'S VIEW, THE ATTITUDES OF DEPOSITARY GOVERNMENTS. RECENT GOI SOUNDINGS, (DIRECT IN WASHINGTON AND LONDON AND "INDIRECT" IN REGARD TO MOSCOW) SHOW THAT US AND UK ARE NOT TOO ADVERSE. THERE HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN "GRUMBLINGS" FROM MOSCOW, A REACTION WHICH GOI THINKS CAN BE OVERCOME.

6. NITTI SAID HE WOULD DO HIS UTMOST TO GET US A TIMELY COPY OF MESSAGE WHICH WILL TRANSMIT NPT TO PARLIAMENT.

7. COMMENT: CLEARLY GOI AND USG AGREE THAT JANUARY 1969 NOTE VERBALE DID NOT RPT NOT COMPRISE AN ITALIAN RESERVATION ON NPT. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, DOES NOT KNOW, AND HAS NOT DISCUSSED WITH FONMIN, WHAT, IF ANY, LEGAL, POLITICAL OR PRACTICAL EFFECTS SUCH "OBSERVATIONS" MIGHT HAVE APART FROM THEIR LACK OF "FORMAL TREATY STATUS." SINCE SUBJECT IS LIKELY ARISE AGAIN IN CONNECTION WITH THE RATIFICATION PROCESS, WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY TO HAVE GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT FOR POSSIBLE USE VIS-A-VIS GOI. VOLPE

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